



# Coastal Communications

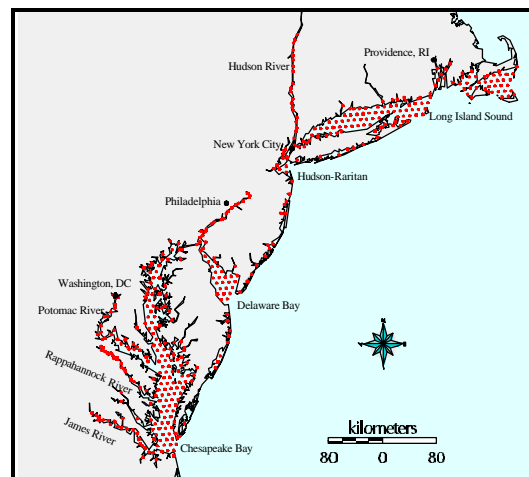


## Coastal Conditions in the Virginian Province (Cape Cod to Cape Henry)



### Background

The U.S. EPA Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (EMAP) collected ecological condition data during 1990 through 1993 from the estuarine waters of the Virginian Biogeographic Province (Cape Henry to Cape Cod) to answer broad-scale questions on environmental conditions. Over the study period, sites were sampled to characterize the condition of ecological resources for four major watershed systems within the province (Chesapeake Bay, Delaware Bay, Hudson-Raritan system, and Long Island Sound), and three tidal rivers in Chesapeake Bay (Potomac, Rappahannock, and James Rivers). Sampling for the Virginian Province was organized and managed by the National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory's Atlantic Ecology Division.



Sampling Sites



### Building on the Baseline

The information on ecological conditions documented in *EMAP-Virginian Province Four-Year Assessment (1990-93)* (EPA/620/R-99/004) serves as a baseline for comparison with later studies, such as the 1997-98 Mid-Atlantic Integrated Assessment monitoring effort. EPA is currently partnering with the coastal states to examine changes in estuarine condition from the early 1990s to the 2000s as part of the National Coastal Assessment program. The monitoring activities conducted in Virginian Province effort will be repeated to create state-level baselines and to examine regional trends.

### Further Information

Additional information on estuarine conditions in the Chesapeake, Delaware, and Atlantic coastal Bays is contained in *Condition of the Mid-Atlantic Estuaries*, EPA 600-R-98-147. For further information, contact John F. Paul at the National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory's Atlantic Ecology Division (email [paul.john@epa.gov](mailto:paul.john@epa.gov) or tel. 401-782-3037) or visit the EMAP Web site at [www.epa.gov/emap](http://www.epa.gov/emap).

